



Access Services

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Behind the Scenes

Executive Director's Report

The Access Services Board of Directors met on May 13, 2019

The Board approved the Consent Calendar, which included items continuing the agency's Self-Insured Retention Auto Liability Program and insurance coverages, employee health and benefit contracts, and awarded a fleet inspection services contract.

The Board also took action and approved extensions to both the Southern and Antelope Valley regions service providers' contracts into 2021 and 2022, respectively.

The Board approved an award for the development of the Rider360 version 2.0 platform, which is a key technology infrastructure system that allows seamless communication among all aspects of the agency's functions.

The Board heard a presentation related to the FY2019/20 budget, which will be adopted by the Board at its next meeting.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be in June 17, 2019.

Andre Colaiace
Executive Director

Get on Board for Public Transit

Last month, Executive Director Andre Colaiace and I participated in the "Get on Board Day" at Union Station. The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) designated April 25, 2019 as National Get on Board Day, calling for a unified voice highlighting the benefits that public transportation provides to communities.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority joined L.A. County municipal transit operators and elected officials to encourage the public to "Get on Board" and utilize public transportation as part of a nationwide effort designed to increase support for public transportation. "Today, we ask the public to join us by riding and supporting public transportation and continue to advocate for more federal, state and local funding needed to grow our system, relieve congestion and provide a better quality of life for



Access joined Metro and other L.A. County municipal transit operators and community stakeholders for National Get on Board Day

generations to come," said Metro CEO Phillip A. Washington.

The municipal operators who participated at the event included Torrance Transit, Culver City Municipal Bus Lines, Foothill Transit, Montebello Bus Lines, G-Trans, Commerce Municipal Bus Lines, Long Beach Transit, Norwalk Transit, Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus, Antelope Valley Transit Authority, Arcadia Transit, Beach Cities Transit, Claremont Dial-A-Ride, La Mirada Transit, Santa Clarita Transit, Metrolink, and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT).

Randy Johnson
Manager, Government Affairs and Outreach

L.A. County Commission on Disability fundraising dinner

For those of you who refrain from going through the highs and lows associated with different types of sporting events, I must tell you if you ever get the chance to visit this massive treasure at the Sports Museum of Los Angeles near downtown, it will be one of pure excitement. What you will see will remain with you for weeks, and perhaps months to come, just like witnessing your favorite team win a championship. In fact, former Dodger owner Peter O'Malley called this treasure trove the best sports museum in the world.



students. Joining me at this event was Executive Director Andre Colaiace and other Access and provider staff.

Once inside you'll see thirty galleries that contain everything from replicas of old ballparks, gold gloves, World Series trophies from 1970 to 2000, the history of the Negro Leagues and historic (and very valuable) baseball trading cards...including a Honus Wagner card, which has been dubbed "The Mona Lisa" of trading cards.

There are also countless number of other incredible sports artifacts from the 19th through the 21st centuries. Memorabilia from other sports are also on display. A fan favorite is a large fur overcoat that once belonged to the great Babe Ruth.

Louis Burns
Community Liaison



Collector and museum owner Gary Cypres, who claims to have the world's largest private collection of Dodgers memorabilia, was delighted

for the second straight year to offer his facility to the Los Angeles County Commission on Disability to raise funds for their yearly scholarships awarded to L. A. County

14th Annual FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference

Last month, I attended the 14th Annual Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A trending topic at the conference was the rise in cannabis use and subsequent positive drug test results. Conference attendees had an opportunity to learn about the growing trends of cannabis use and understand its varying impairment effects.

Cannabis laws are rapidly changing across the nation, although there are several state initiatives that legalize cannabis for medical and/or recreational use. As of April 2019, 11 states consider cannabis fully legal which decriminalizes cannabis use for medical and recreational consumption. California is one of the eleven states.

Although the legal use of cannabis for medical or recreational purposes is fast becoming a societal norm in many states, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) does not authorize the use of cannabis. Cannabis remains a Schedule I drug and is prohibited under the DOT-FTA drug testing rules.

Cannabis, also known as marijuana, is often referred to as a gateway drug, and with recent legalization across several states, the USDOT is noting a spike in positive drug tests. THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) the impairing ingredient in cannabis is known to have addictive qualities which can lead to addiction including use of other illicit drugs.

Legalizing the use of cannabis for medical or recreational purpose is uncharted territory for many agencies. As this trend gains more attention and acceptance, it is important for transit properties to comply with the federal rules, 49 CFR Part 40 & 655 as originally prescribed. Stay informed and be vigilant. For more Drug and Alcohol Program information you may visit:
www.transportation.gov/odapc
www.transit.dot.gov/drug-alcohol-program

Alvina Narayan
Manager of Training and Compliance

Access Services
Consolidated Transportation
Services Agency
 PO Box 5728
 El Monte, CA 91734

Tel: 213.270.6000
 Fax: 213.270.6055
 Email: info@accessla.org
accessla.org

Rider Commendations

"I would like to file a commendation for my daughter Jasmine's driver, Donasha Hilton. She arrived on time, was very professional, cordial, and friendly. She apologized for her computer not working, and was patient and listened carefully to my directions as I had to give her verbal instructions on centering Jasmine's wheelchair. She did a great job loading even with the share ride."

***Terry Burciaga calling
 for Jasmine Burciaga
 Rider since May 2009***

"I would like to file a commendation for Steve from reservations. He was very professional and quick with booking my ride. All I had to do was give him an address and time, and he filled all the other information out. I really appreciated his efficiency. Steve is very sharp and an asset to the company. I feel he should get recognition for his great customer service; that's why I called today."

***Arnetha Pierce
 Rider since June 2002***

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Training

Access' CTSA Extension Program recently hosted a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) training. Ed Salcedo and Susan Mathews, from GCAP Services provided an overview of the DBE program and its regulations.



GCAP works with various clients to enhance and streamline their operations and offers a variety of services to their clientele from compliance solutions, administrative and project support services, and studies and audits.

The DBE Program includes groups of individuals who are socially and economically disadvantaged. The instructors discussed with attendees the main aspect of the program, which includes DBE certification requirements, reporting, commercially useful function (CUF) reviews, development of DBE contract goals, and race neutral measures.

At the end of the training, attendees asked questions of the instructors in order to grasp DBE reporting, and how to increase DBE participation goals. The attendees found the training to be useful and were pleased to increase their knowledge about the program.

***Onnika Payne
 CTSA Analyst***